2 DAYS AFTER THE OSAKA LIVE
I'M GLAD RYUUGUU KOMACHI AND RITSUKO MANAGED TO SETTLE THINGS NICELY, BUT...
I WONDER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED...
YEAH...

THE iDOLM@STER 2
アイドルマスター
The world is all one !!

祐佑 原作／バンダイナムコゲームス
YUU YUU ORIGINAL WORK BY BANDAI NAMCO GAMES

©窪岡俊之 ©NBGI

第20話「信頼のかたち」
CHAPTER 20 THE FORM 'TRUST' TAKES

YOU TWO HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THIS NON-STOP SINCE YESTERDAY.
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY.
BUT, EVEN SO...
PRODUCER DEFINITELY DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT, DIDN'T HE?
YEAH. THEY KEPT SHOOTING EACH OTHER GLANCES DURING THE LIVE.

I KNOW! THEY WERE MUCH MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN USUAL.
RYUUGUU KOMACHI SEEMED REALLY DIFFERENT THAT NIGHT, AS WELL.
THEY'RE REALLY AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME RIGHT NOW.
SINCE PRODUCER KEPT IT A SECRET FROM US.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, YOU KNOW?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO BE INTERESTED.
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT IT, YUKIHO?
I CAN'T SAY THAT I'M NOT, BUT...
THE ONLY THING WE KNOW FOR SURE IS WHATEVER WE LEARNT BY EAVESDROPPING-
ガチャ

UH?
YOU THREE HAVE TO LEAVE FOR THE STUDIO IN-
UM...
!
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH, NO.
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT I HAD THE WRONG ROOM.
YUKIHO,
HIBIKI,
AND HARUKA. RIGHT.
I WAS JUST MAKING SURE.
YOU KNOW,
COULDN'T YOU TELL WITH JUST A GLANCE?
WELL, YEAH...

IS IT 'COS YOU'RE TOO BUSY WITH RYUUGUU KOMACHI AND THE OTHERS...?
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN OUR FACES?
THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S JUST THAT MY EYESIGHT HASN'T BEEN VERY GOOD LATELY.
ON TOP OF THAT, I'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH A LOT OF PAPERWORK-
YOU'RE REALLY OVERDOING IT AGAIN, AREN'T YOU!?
THERE'S NO PROBLEM ASIDE FROM THAT!
THE REST OF MY BODY'S PERFECTLY FINE!
REALLY? PLEASE DON'T COLLAPSE OR ANY-THING, OKAY?
COULD IT BE THAT HE DIDN'T HEAR WHAT WE SAID?
AND, BESIDES,
IT'S THANKS TO YOUR REACTIONS
THAT I THOUGHT I WAS MISTAKEN IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT RITSUKO AND RYUUGUU KOMACHI, WEREN'T YOU?
AND AS FOR WHY YOU THREE REACTED LIKE THAT,
I THINK I CAN MAKE A PRETTY GOOD GUESS.
フフ...
UM... THAT...
HOW'D YOU FIGURE IT OUT?
WELL,
I DID SAY IT WAS A GUESS, DIDN'T I?
NOW, I HEARD THE PART ABOUT YOU ALL EAVES-DROPPING ON SOME-THING,
ヒク
HE HEARD US AFTER ALL!
THE THING IS, YOU ALL KNOW THAT I HAVE NEVER ACTUALLY TAKEN CHARGE OF RYUUGUU KOMACHI, EVEN ONCE.
SO, WHEN YOU MENTIONED THEM... I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP.
AND HIBIKI LET SLIP A MOMENT AGO THAT I WAS "TOO BUSY WITH RYUUGUU KOMACHI AND THE OTHERS", RIGHT?
HIBIKI...
AH...

I SEE.
YOU THREE SUSPECTED SOMETHING WHEN I SAID THAT RITSUKO WAS TAKING A BREAK.
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING!
HIBIKI, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK...
LOOKS LIKE OUR RELATIONSHIP'S AT THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T KEEP SECRETS SO EASILY ANYMORE.

AND, OUT OF CONCERN,
THE THREE OF YOU DECIDED TO SPY ON ME.
YEP.
WE ENDED UP HEARING RYUUGUU KOMACHI'S CONVERSATION AS WELL.

THANKS TO THAT, WE STARTED GETTING WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
CONSIDERING HOW MUCH THEY CHANGED THE NEXT DAY...
I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU'D BE CURIOUS
ALL I REALLY DID WAS LISTEN TO RITSUKO'S COMPLAINTS.
RYUUGUU KOMACHI JOINED IN SHORTLY AFTER AND HAD A TALK WITH RITSUKO.

AND THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO SAY ABOUT IT.
HUH? THAT'S IT?
ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT, AND WE'D BE INTRUDING ON THEIR PERSONAL MATTERS.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST BETWEEN US,
SOME THINGS ARE BEST LEFT UNSAID.
AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT THINGS YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT EITHER, RIGHT?
UH... YEAH.
LET'S NOT KEEP THE STUDIO WAITING.
FOCUS ON YOUR WORK FOR NOW. GOT IT?
GOT IT!
WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE, IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS, BUT...
I GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP BUT GET WORRIED BY THINGS LIKE THAT.
NICE TO BE WORKING WITH YOU TODAY!
WHAT'S NEXT-
HM?
...!!
President Kuroi
-*-****

GOOD WORK, EVERY-ONE!
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK UNTIL NOW!
THE NEXT DAY'S REHEARSAL
Zapp Tok
ALRIGHT!
TOMORROW'S THE LAST DAY OF OUR LIVE TOUR.
LET'S END THIS WITH OUR BEST PERFORMANCE YET!
HEY, YOU THREE.
DID YOU WANT TO ASK US SOME-THING?
I WONDER WHAT CAUSED THEM TO CHANGE SO MUCH OVER-NIGHT...
RYUUGU!! KOMACHI'S A LOT MORE INTO IT THAN USUAL.
YOU DON'T SEEM YOUR-SELVES WITH ALL THAT GLANCING AND WHIS-PERING.
WHAT'S UP?
WANNA TRY ASKING THEM?

AHAHA, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...
THERE'S SOMETHING... WE WANTED TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT...
HEAR FROM US?
WAIT, DID YOU-!?
HUH-?
DON'T TELL ME NII-CHAN END UP SAYING TOO MUCH.
AAH, THAT'S NOT IT!
IT'S JUST THAT WE OVER-HEARD YOUR CONVERSATION AFTER THAT REHEARSAL A FEW DAYS BACK...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS...
OH DEAR.
WE WEREN'T SPYING ON YOU, HONEST!
WE WERE JUST WORRIED, THAT'S ALL...
WE WANTED TO ASK YOU BECAUSE PRODUCER WOULDN'T TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
FORGET ABOUT THAT!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT TALK OF NII-CHAN
BEING A SPY FOR 961 PRO ABOUT?
!?
!!

SAME HERE.
YEAH. I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT IT.
WELL, THEY DID OVERHEAR THAT PART, DIDN'T THEY.
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, THAT'S-
EH? WHAT? NII-CHAN'S A 961 SPY? I WANNA KNOW MORE, TOO!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "SPY"?
HOLD UP, HARUKA, CALM DOWN AND TALK SLOWLY.

I WAS HOPING WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT BEFORE THE LIVE, BUT...
SORRY ABOUT THAT...

WELL, THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG.
IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO EXPLAIN PROPERLY, ANYWAY.

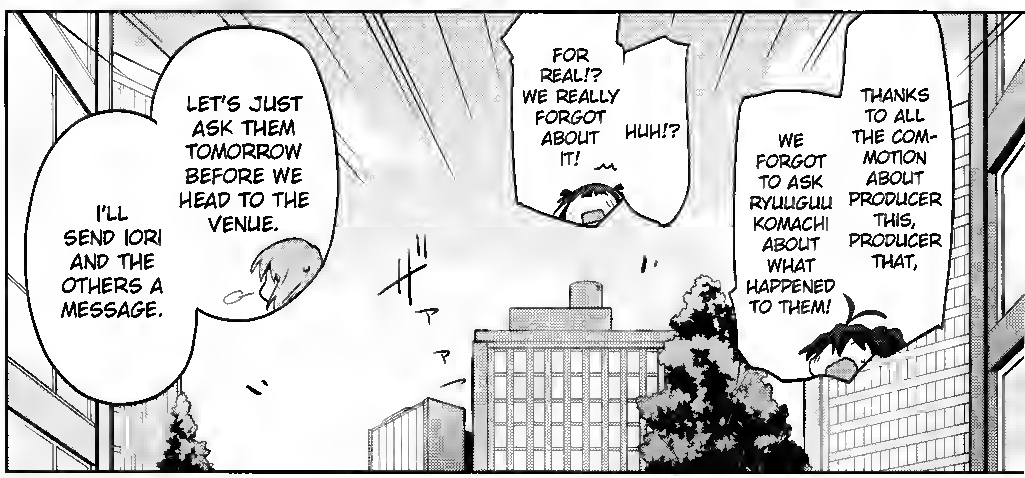
BUT HE HAS SINCE RESIGNED FROM 961 PRO,
AND IS NOW WORKING AS A FULL-TIME PRODUCER IN 765 PRO NOW.
IT'S TRUE THAT HE JOINED US AS A SPY,

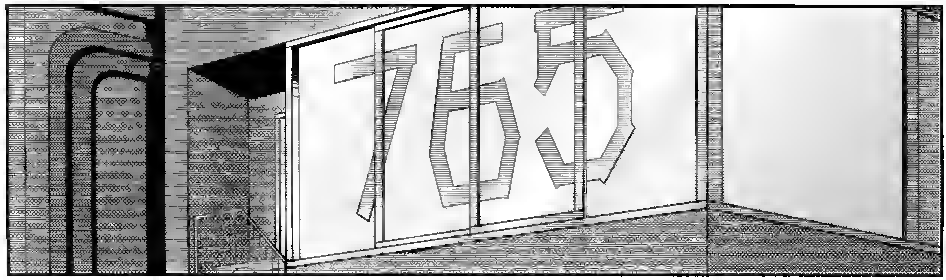
AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW.
SORRY FOR KEEPING IT A SECRET.

IT'S BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO MISUNDERSTAND HIM!
WE TRIED TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM YOU ALL.
HE WOULDN'T BE HERE IF HE WAS STILL WORKING AS A SPY!
YEAH, IT'S TRUE! HE ALMOST RESIGNED FROM 765 PRO AS WELL-
FOR OUR SAKE!

YOU SEE,
YOU'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU SPEAK.
THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE.
YOU CAN SEE HOW WORRIED THEY ARE, CAN'T YOU?
THEY KEPT IT QUIET SO THAT WE WOULDN'T GET WORRIED.
THAT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.
YEAH. THEY WERE WORRIED FOR US AS WELL.
UM... AMI THOUGHT IT WASN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL
BECAUSE RICCHAN MENTIONED IT SO CASUALLY THAT TIME...
SORRY FOR CAUSING SUCH A BIG FUSS...
ポカーン！
THEY JUST ACCEPTED IT?
H, HUH?
IT'S MORE INTERESTING LIKE THIS, ISN'T IT?
EXACTLY! PRODUCER'S DEFINITELY A GOOD PERSON!
IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD KEEPING ALL THAT IN FOR SO LONG.
SAME GOES FOR MIKI.
AFUU
IT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE FOR ME
I'M NOT BOTHERED AT ALL, HONESTLY.

SIGH.
IT FEELS LIKE IT ALL HAPPENED WAY TOO QUICKLY.
SERIOUSLY.
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL US EARLIER
THAT HE FORGOT THAT RYUUGUU KOMACHI OVERHEARD HIM?
HARUKA-CHAN, THAT'S...
AH!
THAT'S IT!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING? HM?
I KNEW WE WERE FORGETTING SOMETHING!


THANKS TO ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT PRODUCER THIS, PRODUCER THAT,
WE FORGOT TO ASK RYUUGUU KOMACHI ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM!
HUH!?
FOR REAL!? WE REALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT!
LET'S JUST ASK THEM TOMORROW BEFORE WE HEAD TO THE VENUE.
I'LL SEND IORI AND THE OTHERS A MESSAGE.


765

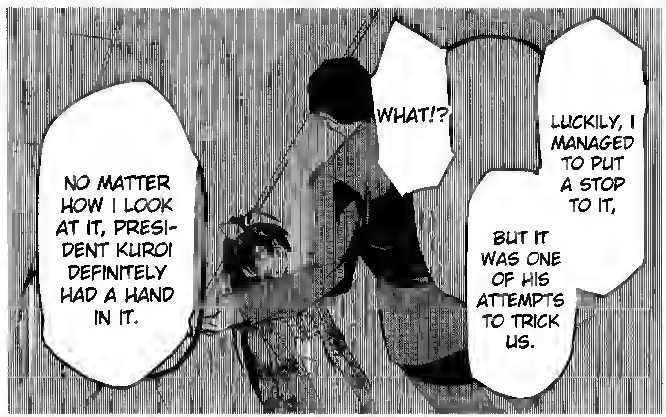
LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING TURNED OUT ALRIGHT.
I FELT AS IF MY HAIR WOULD TURN WHITE BACK THERE.
BUT, HONESTLY, I NEVER EXPECTED EVERYONE TO ACCEPT IT SO QUICKLY.
WERE YOU SURPRISED?
I THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING TO GET ROUGH FOR A WHILE.
I'D SAY IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE ALL SEEN YOU TRYING YOUR HARDEST ALL THE TIME.
NOT ONLY THAT, WITH SPROUT DEFENDING YOU SO DESPERATELY,
IT'S DIFFICULT TO DOUBT YOUR INNOCENCE.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
I'VE GOT TO THANK THE THREE OF THEM
IF I COULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT,
IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE'S COME TO TRUST YOU.
THANKS TO EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE SO FAR.
OKAY!
LET'S REVIEW TOMORROW'S PROGRAM ONE LAST TIME!

I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT! THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT YOU NEED TO KNOW,
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
RITSU-KO-SAN!
BECAUSE OF ALL THE FUSS TODAY,
TOMORROW'S PROGRAM, HUH.

"LET'S HAVE A LITTLE CHAT BEFORE YOUR LIVE."
"IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU IGNORE THIS CALL, BUT YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU DO."
A WHILE BACK, PRESIDENT KUROI GAVE ME A CALL, SAYING THINGS LIKE

YEP.
HIBIKI WENT OFF TO DO SOME SOLO JOBS, DIDN'T SHE?
DURING THAT BRIEF PERIOD I WAS AWAY FROM 765 PRO,

PRESI-DENT KUROI? AGAIN?
I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT-
WE'LL HAVE TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO WHATEVER HAPPENS TOMORROW.

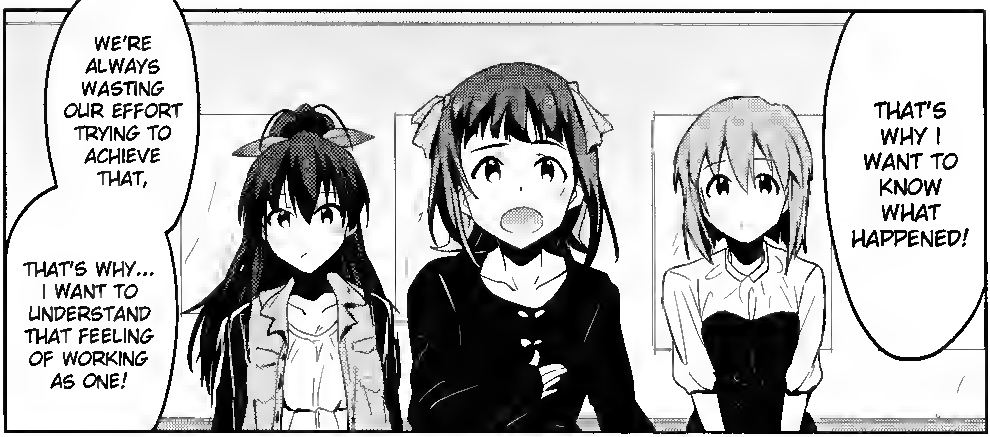

WHAT!?
LUCKILY, I MANAGED TO PUT A STOP TO IT,
BUT IT WAS ONE OF HIS ATTEMPTS TO TRICK US.
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, PRESI-DENT KUROI DEFINITELY HAD A HAND IN IT.

I NO LONGER HAVE ANY TIES TO HIM, BUT...
BUT THESE ACTS AGAINST OUR AGENCY HAVEN'T STOPPED.
I SEE.
IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO SABOTAGE THE ENTIRETY OF 765 PRODUCTIONS DURING THIS LIVE TOUR.
EXACTLY. WHICH IS WHY THE CHANCE OF HIM DOING SOMETHING IS HIGH.
ESPECIALLY ON THE FIRST SHOW OF THE TOUR, OR OUR FINALE LIVE.

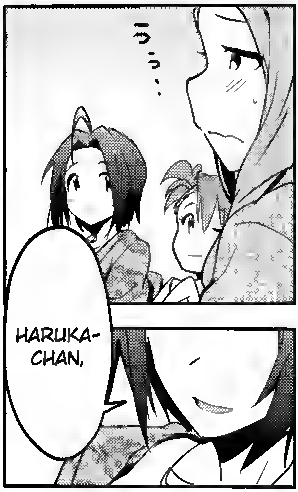
THUS FAR, I'VE BEEN KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON EVERYTHING DURING THE LIVES.
BUT, IF I'M MEETING HIM, I WON'T BE AROUND TO DO THAT.

IF I WERE YOU, I'D IGNORE IT, BUT HIS THREATS ARE WORRYING.
OKAY, I GOT IT.
I'LL DO MY BEST TO HANDLE THINGS, IN CASE YOU'RE NOT AROUND.
おぉ
.....
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AH, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
YOU'RE REALLY DEPENDABLE, AREN'T YOU?
THAT WAS FAST.
AHAHA.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRAISE ME THAT MUCH.
友情

LAST DAY OF THE LIVE TOUR
Zapp Tok
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WE'RE HERE EARLIER THAN WHAT WE AGREED ON...
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM, BUT...
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO.
PRODUCER TOLD US THAT WE SHOULDN'T PRY INTO YOUR PRIVATE MATTERS, AFTER ALL...
YOU DID, BUT I DIDN'T...!
IT'S A FAIR TRADE, ISN'T IT? WE GET TO HEAR ABOUT NII-CHAN BEING A SPY AND ALL.
WE MADE A PROMISE, YOU KNOW.
RIGHT NOW, YOU THREE IN RYUUGUU KOMACHI, ARE COMPLETELY IN SYNC WITH RITSUKO.
I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF JEALOUS.
IT'S JUST THAT... HOW SHOULD I SAY IT,


WE'RE ALWAYS WASTING OUR EFFORT TRYING TO ACHIEVE THAT,
THAT'S WHY... I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT FEELING OF WORKING AS ONE!
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!

WHEN YOU SAY "WE",
DOES THAT INCLUDE YOUR PRODUCER AS WELL?

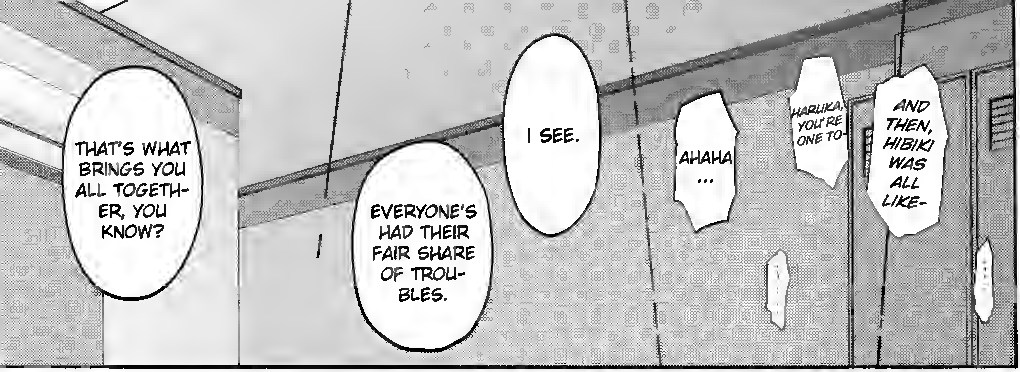

ううっ...
HARUKA-CHAN,

ALRIGHT. IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I CAN.
YOU GUYS HAD BETTER LISTEN CLOSELY, OKAY?
I GET IT ALREADY.
YOU SEE, IORI-CHAN?
ハア:
YEAH.
コク

765 PRO'S PRODUCER-KUN.
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME HERE FOR?
A PARK CLOSE TO THE VENUE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
WE'VE GOT TIME FOR A NICE, LONG CHAT, DON'T WE?
LIKE, SAY,
ABOUT HOW EVERYONE IN 765 PRODUCTIONS HAS BEEN DOING VERY WELL FOR THEMSELVES, LATELY, FOR INSTANCE.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, ISN'T IT?
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING WORTH COMMENT-ING ON.
HEHEHE. IS THAT SO?
OF COURSE HE HAS. IT'S OB-VIOUS.
MORE IMPOR-TANT-LY,
WHY TODAY, AND AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IS THIS PART OF ANOTHER SCHEME OF YOURS?

DO YOU WISH TO ACCEPT IT?
IT WAS ONLY CONVENIENT.
I'M JUST HERE TO OFFER YOU A JOB.
I WAS IN TOWN ON SOME BUSINESS AFTER ALL.
HOW IS IT? IT'S A GOOD CHANCE TO INCREASE YOUR POPULARITY YET AGAIN.
IT'S DEFINITELY ANOTHER TRICK.
HEADED BY 961 PRO, AND BROADCAST BY 901 TV.
IT'S A FAMOUS PROGRAM.
YOU CAN HAVE SPROUT STAR IN IT ALONGSIDE JUPITER.
I'M SAYING THAT WE HAVE NO NEED TO TAKE SUCH RISKS ANY LONGER.
OH? RUNNING AWAY?
AS SUCH, I'VE GOT NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT, DO I?
I'M NO LONGER UNDER YOUR PAYROLL.
I'M WILLING TO SAY THAT I BELIEVE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME TOP IDOLS.
AND, BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCH A CHANCE,
WE NOW STAND A CHANCE IN A FAIR COMPETITION.

YOU SAY YOU 'BELIEVE' IN THEM?
HOW WON-DROUSLY NAIVE!
YOU REALLY THINK THAT WILL MAKE ANYTHING HAPPEN?
YOU DIS-GUST ME!
TRUST,
IS NOT THE IRRE-SPONSIBLE ASSUMPTION YOU MAKE IT OUT TO BE.
THEY'RE ALWAYS MOVING FOR-WARD.
THEY'VE BUILT THIS CHANCE FOR THEMSELVES UPON ALL THEIR EFFORTS SO FAR.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD CALL SOMETHING LIKE THAT "NAIVE".
I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS I HAVE TO.
I BELIEVE IN THOSE GIRLS.


THAT'S WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL TOGETHER, YOU KNOW?
EVERYONE'S HAD THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TROUBLES.
I SEE.
AHAHA...
HARUKA, YOU'RE ONE TO-
AND THEN, HIBIKI WAS ALL LIKE-

YEAH, THANKS, IORI.
IT'S A SECRET BETWEEN US, OKAY?
RIGHT0! LET'S DO OUR BEST!

HUH? I THOUGHT I'D GET HERE FIRST,
BUT YOU GUYS IN SPROUT AND RYUUGUU KOMACHI ARE REALLY FAST, AREN'T YOU?
ガチャ

THAT'S A SECRET!
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE CAN MAKE IT TODAY.
UM.., PRODUCER'S GOT SOME URGENT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.
IS TO EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS THROUGH BOTH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.
IS SPROUT AROUND?
THAT THE FIRST STEP WHEN IT COMES TO TRUST-
ZAPP!
IT WAS CLEAR TO US AFTER THAT TALK,
ガチャ

IF WE CAN DO THAT,
YEAH!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK TWICE AS HARD!
HE'S DOING HIS BEST, ISN'T HE?
BUT, YOU SEE, THIS TIME-
WHAT'S HE DOING THIS TIME? IT CAN'T BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LIVE, CAN IT?
EHP, NOT AGAIN!
WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN?
NEITHER DISAGREE-MENTS, INCONSIDERATE WORDS,
NOR ANXIETY WILL BE ABLE TO SHAKE US.
RIGHT!
WHAT'S LEFT FOR US AT THIS POINT.
NO MATTER WHERE, NO MATTER WHEN, WE'LL MAKE THE STAGE WE'RE STANDING ON THE GREATEST ONE POSSI-BLE.
EY! EY! OH-!
IS MEETING THOSE HOPES WITH ALL THAT WE'VE GOT.
THIS IS PROOF OF OUR TRUST-

PRESIDENT KUROI. WHAT IS YOUR REASON
FOR CONTINUING TO WORK IN THIS INDUSTRY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND PRESIDENT TAKAGI,
BUT,
TO DIRTY YOUR HANDS,
AND TO BREAK THE SMILES OF IDOLS WHO YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW,
ALL THE WHILE ATTEMPT-ING TO PRODUCE TOP IDOLS,
JUST WHY ARE YOU-
DON'T SPEAK AS IF YOU KNOW EVERY-THING!
SHUT UP!
.....
HMPH. I SEE NO REASON TO ANSWER YOUR QUES-TIONS.
MY WORK HERE IS DONE.
IF YOU REJECT MY OFFER, I'LL BE SURE TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES,

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T REGRET IT.
THE LAST DAY OF THE LIVE TOUR ENDED WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE FROM 961 PRO.
AS IF FOLLOWING IN RYUUGUU KOMACHI'S FOOTSTEPS, SPROUT PERFORMED BETTER THAN THEY EVER HAD BEFORE.
WITH THAT, 765 PRO'S LIVE TOUR CONCLUDED SPECTACULARLY.
Zepp Tokyo